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SOURCE Asahi Shimbun

JAPANESE PAPER DISCUSSES SINKIANG ATOMIC ENERGY PLANT.
REVIEWS SOVIET ENCROACHMENT IN SINKIANG AREA

On 3 October 1951, the US authorities announced that the Soviet Union had exploded its second atomic bomb. Subsequently, Stalin confirmed this news to Pravda. The consensus of opinion is that the test was held in the hinterland of Siberia. Some believe that the test was made in Sinkiang since it was previously reported that the Russians are constructing a large atomic bomb plant there. In connection with this report, the London Daily Telegraph special correspondent reported from Srinagar, Kashmir, in June 1950, that a large amount of Sinkiang uranium was being transported to atomic bomb plants in the Soviet Union, and that a special installation was being constructed in the desert area of Sinkiang to carry on atomic energy experiments.

In late March 1951, a KMT intelligence source in Taipei revealed that the famous British atomic scientist, Pontecorvo, who disappeared in the fall of 1950, had recently appeared in Sinkiang. The same source claimed that he is now working at an atomic bomb plant in Kulaja near the Soviet border. Shortly after this report, Hsin-hua She, the Chinese Communist news agency, on 27 May 1951, reported volcanic eruptions in Sinkiang. According to specialists, there is no active volcano in Sinkiang, and in conjunction with the report of Pontecorvo's appearance in Sinkiang, many people believe that the "volcanic eruptions" were Soviet atomic bomb experiments.

Apart from considering the "volcanic eruptions" as atomic bomb experiments, it is generally recognized that the Soviet Union has encroached into Sinkiang with the mining of uranium as its main objective. KMT sources already consider Sinkiang a part of the Soviet Union.

In December 1949, the Chinese Communists troops advanced into Sinkiang from Tsinghai and immediately undertook to unify the entire area. First, the Kuomintang army was reorganized; Wang Chen, Commander of the First Army Group, was placed in command. The Nationalities Revolutionary Army, composed mainly of Moslems, was reorganized into the Fifth Army of the People's Liberation Army. Next, Burhan was appointed Chairman of the Sinkiang Provincial government. However, it is reported that the government is actually controlled by Babinov, Soviet Consul-General to Urumchi; Ogarin, Secretary of the Turkestan Branch, International Communist Party; and Nikolai, Soviet Consul at I-ii.

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In March 1950, the Soviet Union signed a treaty with the Chinese Communists to promote the development of Sinkiang. Since then, the Sino-Soviet Petroleum Joint-Stock Company and the Sino-Soviet Nonferrous Metallurgy Joint-Stock Company have been formally established. According to KMT sources, the Soviets have brought in mining equipment for the uranium mines in the Altai Mountains in Sinkiang and have already attained a high level of production. It is also reported that the Soviets control over ten airfields in Sinkiang, and are constructing several others, and that 25,000 Soviet troops are now garrisoned in Sinkiang.

Most recent information has come from KMT sources and is largely supplied by travelers who escaped from Sinkiang. The reports are difficult to verify since the Chinese Communists ordered the British Consulate in Urumchi to close in February 1951 and its consular staff to depart. They also refused to permit an Indian consul to be sent to Kashgar.

However, on one occasion a Hsin-hua dispatch from Urumchi reported that the USSR had distributed 500,000 copies of the works of Marx, Lenin, Mao Tse-tung, and Liu Shao-ch'i, written in Russian, Chinese, Uighur, and four other languages, and some 2 million copies of newspapers and periodicals in Sinkiang. A recent Peiping broadcast stated that, besides doing trade with China proper, Sinkiang has opened up direct trade with the Soviet Union and is importing medical, educational, scientific, agricultural, transport, irrigation, mining, and other equipment. Thus, from the Chinese Communists sources, it can be seen that very close Sino-Soviet relationships exist in Sinkiang.

A recent Hsin-hua dispatch from Sian gave the development in the Northwest China as follows: "The steel industry in the Northwest China has undergone a complete transformation during the past 2 years. The petroleum installations, the largest in China, has increased 32 percent. Large electric power plants, and textile and cement factories are now being constructed from Shensi to the plateau of Sinkiang."

It has been often reported that Soviet and Chinese Communists are dreaming of constructing a great industrial center in the Northwest and a Red military base straddling Europe and Asia. The recent activities in Sinkiang and Tibet suggest that this is a dream which is rapidly becoming a reality.

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